STAY HOME
STAY SAFE
HOTEL SIDDHARTA
NAZARABAD, MYSURU PH: 2522999

STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 43 No. 103 Pages: 6 Rs. 2.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 23 Fax: 2496530
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
ad@starofmysore.com

MYSURU Saturday 6th June 2020
City Offices: K.R. Circle Ph: 2431774
Devaraja Urs Road Ph: 2428695
Visit: www.starofmysore.com

Rebate offer to property owners

MCC collects Rs. 12 crore tax in a month

Civic body enables both offline and online payments to speed up tax collection process

Property tax-payers line up in front of MCC Zonal Office 1 in Agrahara this morning to pay their tax dues.

Mysuru, June 6 (RK&BCT)- Desperate to mop up resources, the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) has speeded up its annual property tax collection and has made arrangements for both online and offline tax payment. The online payments can be made after receiving the Property Identification Number (PID) from the MCC Zonal Offices.

With the 5 percent rebate extended till the end of July, the MCC has decided to streamline the process and has allowed payments in both the modes. Till yesterday, the MCC has collected over Rs. 12.26 crore from all its nine Zonal Offices. From May 1 till June 4, over Rs. 11.6 crore had been collected and on June 5, Rs. 64.6 lakh was collected. As a first step towards online tax payment, the MCC began the process of collecting taxes through PID since May 1, 2020 where each property owner is asked to produce the receipt of previous tax payments (SAS forms) and the already mapped and allotted PID will be given to them.

(See MCC on page 6)

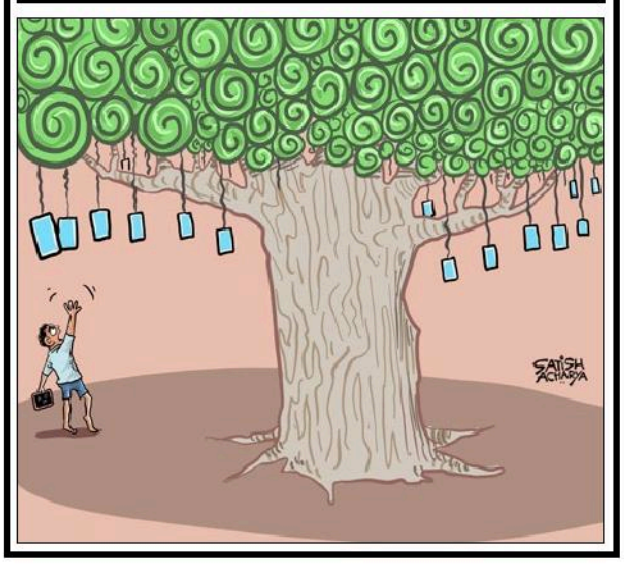
COVID effect: City bangle, bag, cosmetics wholesale traders to close on Sundays

Mysuru, June 6 (BCT)- Call it COVID effect or the love for family, wholesale traders from various areas in city have come to a decision that they will close their shops and business establishments every Sunday henceforth, starting tomorrow. Retail shops will however be open as many office-goers visit outlets on Sundays.

At a meeting of various Wholesale Traders Associations held in city yesterday attended by over 150 representatives from bag industries, paper and stationery, imitation jewellery, bangles, cosmetics, tailoring material and others decided to close on Sundays due to COVID-19 pandemic.

(See TRADERS on page 6)

STAR PUNCH By Satish Acharya



Let your investments grow as gold !
Gold is not just an ornament but also an asset with an appreciating value, which can always be considered as a true investment
5 Minutes
Bring your old gold from any jeweller and get the valuation done in just 5 minutes*
24 HOURS
When you exchange your old gold from any jeweller for cash, get the best value credited to your account within 24 hours as per KYC guidelines*
10%
Advance booking starts from 10%* onwards
INVEST IN PURITY
(Rate/gm)
₹611 (2005)
₹1829 (2010)
₹2457 (2015)
₹4350 (2020)
Growth of gold rate over the years
Gold prices for 22K as per WGC
BHIMA GOLD TREE
GOLD PURCHASE PLAN
Grow your investment with attractive monthly installment plans
Bhima Advance Booking
Through Bhima Rate Protection Advance Booking, you could get the lowest gold rate, either at the time of advance booking or at the time of purchase whichever is lower
Gold Jewellery with making charges starting from 3%
Appointment Shopping Facility
Digital payments are enabled in all our showrooms
We have sanitized our showrooms for your safety
Our showrooms are open from 10.00 am to 7.30 pm
*Conditions apply
BHIMA JEWELS
GOLD • DIAMONDS • SILVER • PLATINUM
INDIA • UAE
SINCE 1925
B.N Road, Opp. KSRTC Suburban Bus Stand, Mysore.
Ph: 0821 - 2524882, 400 3131/32
www.bhima.com • /bhimajewellers • AMPLE CAR PARKING • OPEN ON ALL SUNDAYS

Opposition grows against Sir MV's statue on par with Nalwadi at KRS

Like-minded individuals urge Government to take historical facts into consideration

Mysuru, June 6 (RKB&DM)- The Government's proposal to erect Sir M. Visvesvaraya's statue along with 'Rajarshi' Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar at South Gate of Krishna Raja Sagar (KRS) Dam has sparked a hot debate and it is led by city historian Prof. P.V. Nanjaraj Urs.

The project is ongoing at the Dam and is expected to be completed in another six months. But now there is opposition to the installation of Sir MV's statue on par with Nalwadi statue. Visvesvaraya was Wadiyar's Dewan and the Chief Engineer who built the Dam.

People have demanded that only Nalwadi's statue should come up near the Southern Gate prominently while Sir MV's statue can come up at a different place inside the Dam premises. A few like-minded individuals under the leadership of Prof. P.V. Nanjaraj Urs have formed 'Maharajara Maana Ulisi Janandolana Samiti' (Save the dignity and honour of Mysore Maharaja).

The Samiti held a meeting at Jaladarshini Guest House on Thursday to discuss the statue issue, in which members of several organisations took part. They strongly opposed the Government's move and have warned to protest against the same on June 8 near DC office.

Historical facts

Presiding over the meeting, Prof. Nanjaraj Urs said that the erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar, who spent money and sold gold and diamond jewellery to build the Dam, appointed Sir M. Visvesvaraya as the Chief Engineer of the project in December 1909 after the Dam designer and First Chief Engineer Capt. Nicholas Bernard Edwin, a foreigner, died while trying to save Kannadiga labourers from drowning in the Cauvery river while at work in the early part of the same year (1909).

Although Visvesvaraya is credited with constructing the Dam which brought him name and fame globally, his statue can be built elsewhere. Pointing out that Sir MV was conferred the country's highest Civilian Award Bharat Ratna later on, Prof. Urs, however, maintained that despite Bharat Ratna, it is inappropriate to install his statue along with that of the great visionary Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar who made a lot of sacrifices.

Capt. Nicholas Bernard Edwin factor

While Nalwadi and Maharani Vani Vilas Sannidhana sold off the royal family jewellery, Sir MV was the person who executed the project. We are not against Sir MV but we cannot place both of them in same plane and cannot treat them equally, though Sir MV's contributions cannot be negated, he argued.

Claiming that the original plan of the Dam was drafted by Capt. Nicholas Bernard Edwin, he maintained that the actual works on the construction of the Dam took place for 21 years from December 1911 to 1932 and Sir MV worked as the Chief Engineer of the Dam for only a year (December 1911 to 1912) and seven more Chief Engineers succeeded him till the project was completed in 1932. This interesting fact should be taken note of, Prof. Urs said.

Insult to Nalwadi

"Mahatma Gandhi had called Nalwadi a Rajarshi taking note of his yeoman selfless service to the society. It is Nalwadi who made the world look at Mysore for its heritage structures, beauty and the Maharaja's vision for developing the city. When such is the case, the Govt. must not try to insult Nalwadi by installing statues of other personalities alongside that of him at KRS Dam," he asserted. Continuing, Prof. Urs said that the Union Govt. in 2015 had insulted Nalwadi when it rejected public appeals to name Mysore Airport after him (Nalwadi) and sought other names. Now, it is the turn of the State Government to insult Nalwadi, he said and called upon the people to come forward for saving the dignity and honour of Nalwadi, who dedicated his entire life for the well-being of the people.

The meeting also resolved to stage a massive protest in front of the DC Office on June 8 and to meet the Chief Minister regarding the issue. Former MLC Puttasiddashetty, activist Shabbir Mustafa, members of various organisations — Aravind Sharma, Nandeesh Urs, Sosale Siddaraju, Vijayadevaraj Urs, Ashwathnarayan Raje Urs, Yamuna, Prithviraj, Subramanya Raje Urs, Borappa Shetty and others were present.

Fleecing Kodagu flood victims

ACB traps Madikeri Town Municipality Bill Collector

He demanded Rs. 25,000 bribe from a Government house beneficiary

Madikeri, June 6 (PS&BCT)- Make hay when the sun shines goes the proverb that means act while an opportunity exists or to take action while a situation is favourable. This Bill Collector from Madikeri Town Municipal Council saw an opportunity to make some money when the State Government decided to hand over the houses built for 2018 flood victims.

Lohit

He then approached a beneficiary and told him that he has to pay Rs. 25,000 bribe to get a Government house. Not taking things lying down, the beneficiary, however, complained to the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) that caught the Bill Collector red-handed while accepting the bribe on Friday. The bill collector has been identified as 35-year-old Lohit.

As his house was washed away during floods and landslides in 2018, Ganesh, a resident of Indiranagar in Madikeri, had applied for a Government house and had submitted his application in the Madikeri Town Municipality. The State Government had launched a project to build over 840 houses for the victims in Jamboor and Madenadu. Over 463 houses have been built so far and handed over to beneficiaries on June 4.

Accordingly, Ganesh too got his house. But claiming that the house will be fully under Ganesh's possession only if he paid Rs. 25,000, Lohit demanded the money. He also told Ganesh that his (Lohit) efforts resulted in Ganesh getting a free house. As Lohit's demand persisted, Ganesh paid up Rs. 5,000.

Not stopping at this, Lohit demanded the remaining Rs. 20,000. Fed up with his demands, Ganesh lodged a complaint with the Kodagu ACB. As per the trap laid by the ACB, Ganesh called up Lohit and asked him to come near the APMC office on Friday afternoon. The ACB sleuths, who were waiting for Lohit, trapped him red-handed while accepting Rs. 20,000.

Lohit has been arrested and produced before a Court that has sent him to judicial custody. Kodagu District ACB Dy.SP Sadananda Thippannanavar, Circle Inspector Sridhar, Mahesh and staff Dinesh, Sajan, Praveen Lohit, Deepika, Suresh, Mahadeva and Naroon participated in the trapping operation.

K.R. Nagar Bank Manager tests positive for COVID-19; Bank sealed

Mysuru, June 6 (MTY&BCT)- A Bank Manager in K.R. Nagar, Mysuru, has tested positive for COVID-19 late yesterday. He has been shifted to COVID Hospital in Madurai as he had been there on a visit. The Bank in K.R. Nagar has been sealed down and all the other six employees have been asked to remain in home quarantine.

The person works as a Manager in the Indian Overseas Bank located on the Mysuru-K.R. Nagar Main Road. After finishing work on June 2 along with other six bank employees, the Manager boarded a bus to Bengaluru and from there he went to the Kempegowda International Airport along with a group of friends in a car.

From the Bengaluru Airport, he took a plane to Chennai on June 4 where his throat swabs were collected at Chennai International Airport as per protocol followed to all inter-State fliers. The Manager then left to Madurai where he had some work. His samples tested positive and the Bank Manager was informed about the same and immediately shifted to Madurai COVID Hospital.

Madurai health authorities passed on the information to Mysuru District Administration and as such, the Bank has been sealed this morning. Throat swabs of all the six employees have been collected and they have been asked to stay in home quarantine while the samples have been sent for tests.

It is, however, suspected that the Bank Manager could have contracted the disease in the plane that he flew from Bengaluru to Chennai, a COVID hotspot. The authorities are not taking any chances. The Bank Manager has a house in Kanakanagar in Ward 17 of K.R. Nagar.

UPSC Civil Services Prelims Exam on Oct. 4

New Delhi, June 6- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) will conduct the Civil Services exam 2020 (prelims) on Oct. 4. The Civil Services main exam will be held on Jan. 8, 2021. The UPSC had postponed the exam in view of the lockdown imposed by the Govt. to contain the spread of Coronavirus.

The Indian Forest Service prelims will be held along with the Civil Services exam and its main exam will be held on Feb. 28, 2021. The interview of the Civil Services (main) exam 2019 which was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic will resume on July 20.

The UPSC will release the admit cards, next, to inform candidates about their exam centre and other guidelines that need to be followed during the exam. For COVID-19, the UPSC may announce new rules this time.

Other UPSC Exam Dates: • Indian Economic Service Exam/ Statistical Service Exam will be held on Oct. 16. The notification will be released on June 10. • NDA/ NA exam will be held on Sept. 6. • Combined Medical Services Examination will be held on Oct. 22. The notification will be released on July 22. • Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination will be held on Dec. 20. The notification will be released on Aug. 18.

This year instead of two exams, there will be only one entrance exam for National Defence Academy and Naval Academy. The exam will be held on Sept. 6. In this exam, candidates who have applied for both the exam will appear together.

TP meeting

Mysuru, June 6- The General Meeting of Mysuru Taluk Panchayat (TP) will be held at Zilla Panchayat (ZP) office auditorium on June 8 at 11 am. TP President Kalamma Kemparamaiah will preside over the meeting.

VOICE OF THE READER

Non-functioning streetlight

Sir,

I am a resident of Income Tax Layout, Mysuru and I wish to state that the streetlight fixed to the pole near my house is not working for the past ten days. As the area is lonely causing sufficient hardships, it is requested that the authorities concerned may take immediate action by fixing a new tubelight.

— J.S. Anil Kumar

Mysuru
5.6.2020

U.M. Gurushantappa elected as BAI Karnataka State Chairman

N. Subramanya as BAI State Secretary

Mysuru, June 6- U.M.Gurushantappa of Builders' Association of India (BAI), Mysuru, has been elected as the State Chairman for BAI Karnataka for the year 2020-21 in the recently held Builders' Association of India elections. N. Subramanya has been nominated as BAI Karnataka State Secretary.

The first General Council and Managing Committee meeting of Karnataka State was held online and members discussed about the COVID-19 situation wherein the construction industry is facing difficulties and members expressed their views about how to tackle the issues in this present situation.

More safety measures in the construction sites, skill development programmes for the local labours in view of the migration of labourers to different States, abnormal increase in prices of construction materials and issues related to Government contracts were discussed in detail.

Respective BAI Centre Chairmen gave report on the activities done to the needy construction fraternity during the lockdown period.

The Council nominated the following persons for various Committees.

Gurushantappa

Subramanya

State Advisors: Past National President Vijaya Raghava Reddy & Past National Vice-President of BAI K.Sriram; **State Spokesperson:** Past National President Vijaya Raghava Reddy; **Opening New Centres:** Past State Chairman N.S. Muralidhara; **Grievance Redressal:** U.M. Gurushantappa; **CMA matters:** Bangalore Centre Chairman Ravindra; **Membership Developement:** All Centre Chairmen; **Government Liaisoning:** Abdul Sattar

It was decided to bring to the notice of the Government of Karnataka to implement as per the memorandum by Union Finance Minister, Government of India in the letter dated 13th May 2020 towards the relief to contractors and MSMEs.

The meeting also discussed expanding the activities of Builders Association of India by opening new centres across Karnataka.

State Secretary N. Subramanya proposed a vote of thanks.

Hoteliers get ready to open doors, but grapple with concerns

Mysuru, June 6 (RK&BCT)- Embracing a new culture of food serving and hospitality in times of COVID-19 pandemic, hotel and restaurant industry in Mysuru is all set to bring about a structural change in its functioning. From downsizing its menu to implementing social distancing by reducing the seating capacity, hotels and restaurants are preparing themselves for offering dine-in facility from June 8.

Even as hoteliers and restaurant owners welcomed the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the hospitality sector, they were cautious about future of the industry. "The SOPs have struck a right balance by making both the host hotel and visitor equally accountable for ensuring the guidelines are followed. We will be entering a new paradigm from June 8, because in hospitality industry the tradition is to pamper the visitor, but now we will also have to educate them," said Mysuru District Hotel Owners Association President C. Narayanagowda.

At a two-hour-long meeting of the Association at its premises in Krishnamurthypuram, hoteliers discussed in detail about the implications of the SOPs on their business and customer relationships. They have decided to follow the SOPs but were upset about the 45 conditions imposed by the Centre to an already suffering industry due to lockdown.

The Association members pointed out that the safety of hotel/restaurant staff will also have to be considered. For that, they will have to be provided with adequate safety gear on a daily basis. They felt that following the conditions will naturally increase prices and invariably they have to be passed on to the consumers, they said.

Expressing displeasure about a lot of conditions, rules and regulations, they felt that many of the conditions were impractical and were not imposed on any other industry but only on hotel and hospitality sector. Rearranging tables and stipulating a minimum of two diners and a maximum of four diners are not going to address the issue of infection transmission, they claimed.

"Even though the SOPs are conducive and at the same time tight for opening both hotels and restaurants, but for restaurants, the night curfew timings and restrictions on serving liquor will act as big dampeners. Most customers come for dinner, but with night curfew starting from 9 pm, it will be tough to attract them," they felt.

Striking a balancing note, Narayanagowda said, "While we are confident that all our partners will smoothly resume operations, we also anticipate the reopening to be a gradual process as SOPs are understood and get adhered to 100 percent. There is no alternative but to follow the SOPs," he explained.

"Living with COVID-19 is set to become the new normal in the society. But with the Government planning to bring back normalcy, restaurants and hotels will also open. Hence, the solution will be to avoid circumstances that could spread infection. The fellow members have been asked to ensure measures in this regard," he said.

At the meeting, P.M. Prasad of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India gave a presentation about the precautions, rules and regulations to be followed by hotels, restaurants and bakeries from June 8. Association members Ravi Shastri, Ravindra Bhat, Subramanya Tantri, Suresh Ugraiah, Bhaskar Shetty, Narayan Hegde, Narayan Kundera were present.

Missing .303 bullets: One more Police Station Writer suspended

Mysuru, June 6 (BCT)- Investigation into the case of missing live bullets of .303 rifles from T. Narasipur Police Station has picked up pace. 50 bullets were found missing from the vaults of the Station recently when personnel from Mysuru District Armed Reserve Police visited the T. Narasipur Police Station on May 23 to take stock of the weaponry.

Before that, live bullets were supplied to T. Narasipur Police Station for .303 rifles and the bullet count was recorded at 2,500. After the bullets were found missing, an FIR was lodged and the Police Station Writer Krishnegowda was kept under suspension.

Krishnegowda was the previous Station Writer and now as the investigation is under progress, the present Police Station Writer Ningaraju too has been placed under suspension.

Mysuru Superintendent of Police (SP) C.B. Ryshyanth told reporters that the Police Station entries, documents and ledgers of the armoury have been screened to find clues about the bullets. Further investigation has been initiated, he added.

Rs.25.15 lakh donated to Mysuru Zoo

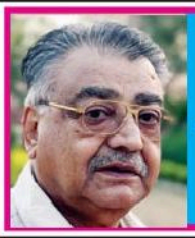
Mysuru, June 6- Mysuru District In-Charge Minister S.T. Somashekar visited Mysuru Zoo for the fifth time on May 30 and donated Rs.25.15 lakh to the Zoo for the food of animals and birds and maintenance of the Zoo, on behalf of The Bengaluru Alugedde mattu Erulli Vartakara Sangha of Yeswantpur Constituency. So far, the Minister had donated Rs. 2.60 crore to the Zoo, according to a press release from the Zoo Executive Director.

NAKODA ASSOCIATES
BULK SUPPLIERS OF
OMEO ALCOHOL BASED SANITIZER
AND DIGITAL INFRARED
THERMOMETER
718/1, 2nd Cross, Thyagaraja Road,
K.R.Mohalla, Behind Lakshmi Talkies,
Mysuru - 570 004.
90360-81746
99450-03730

WALK-IN INTERVIEW
FOR THE POST OF
PROJECT ASSISTANT

A walk-in-interview will be held on 17.06.2020 at 9.30 am for 01 (one) post of Project Assistant (PA) purely on contract basis for a period of 24 months or completion of project which ever is earlier under CSB approved project "Development of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) module for leaf roller Diaphania pulverulentalis (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) in mulberry" (Project code: PRE01010-SI)" at Central Sericultural Research and Training Institute, Srirampura, Mysuru-570-008. Interested can also visit our website www.csrtimys.res.in for details.

Sd/- Director



Abracadabra... Abracadabra...

By K.B. Ganapathy

Stray thoughts on Senior Citizens in times of COVID-19 !

Pictures for representation only *[Courtesy: Internet]*

Since March 2020, I have been living a life of seclusion from my friends, employees and business contacts. But there has been much bonhomie and togetherness with family and grand-children. God's mercy and grace. Let it be.

I never thought COVID-19 would wreak such searing havoc on our society and all over the world as a pandemic like it is doing now, a scourge stalking across the world. During its early months in November-December 2019 in China where it started and later into 2020 spreading all over the world. In the beginning no one thought that it would last this long. Now we are left without any clue as to when it will fade away or end like a few earlier epidemics or pandemics like SARS, Ebola etc.

But, sadly there was no luck. Our hope, that soon the world Virologists and Scientists will come up with a cure or a preventive vaccine, also seems to look like a mirage. We are in an year of despair. However, I believe, Mother Nature will not leave us in despair for too long.

And the Senior Citizens are warned that they would be the easy targets for the Coronavirus and most vulnerable. Being an octogenarian in its early years, naturally, I must be careful. In fact I was unaware of my age factor as I remained cooped up in my house, fortunately, with a huge compound. The inevitable monotony in such situations is broken by argumentative family members and the sounds of screaming children running around in their playful euphoria.

Though admission into the compound by outsiders is barred, it is inevitable to receive what is ordered for the kitchen and household needs. This entails Social Distancing, Wearing of Mask and Washing of the Hands. That is a small inconvenience for my own safety as also of others in the house who too strictly follow this health-drill.

Interestingly, a friend who is at the threshold of entering the age of 80, cautioned me with **10-point dos and don'ts during this times of COVID-19.** First and foremost was: Take care not to fall and break your bones or hurt your head. Be careful while climbing or coming down from the staircases. Always use the railings till the last rung. The next danger zone, he said, was the bathroom.

Another real-situation advice, 'Do not stand to wear your trousers. Wear your pants while sitting down.' Well, I have stopped wearing pants since there is no need now. I am comfortable with shorts.

The 10th advice is important specially for those who have any kind of 'piles' problem. It says, "Do not overuse force in the toilet. Let it come naturally." Thank you friend. Alleluia!

Be that as it may, now the question staring at our face is : How long this lockdown (of whatever kind) and how long will this COVID-19 haunt the mankind? In the beginning, I said this year 2020 is the year of despair. But what if it crossed 2020 and marches on leaving the mankind helpless...? What will happen to our income to run the family, with shelter, clothing, health and education? That is like the Yaksha's questions to Yudishtira in the epic Mahabharata. There were so many questions and Yaksha was satisfied with all the answers. As for me I liked one question and the answer given by Yudishtira because it very much fits into our present predicament of COVId-19 and gives the correct and **RATIONAL** answer at a time a large number of 'we the people' still pursue the path of **belief in God** to bring us out of this COVID-19 pandemic.

The question and the answer. The Yaksha asked:

'Who is the friend of a traveller?

Who is the friend of a householder?

Who is the friend of a sick man?

Who is the friend of a dying man?'

Yudishtira replied:

'The friend of a traveller is his road companion.

The friend of a householder is his wife.

The friend of a sick man is his doctor.

The friend of a dying man is charity.'

As I was contemplating on the last two questions — who is the friend of a sick man? and who is the friend of a dying man ? — I in my foolishness and being bound to my religious belief-system thought the answers to both questions would be **GOD.** But Yudishtira's answers were as if it was a Bertrand Russell or Jean-Paul Sartre of the 20th century **Age of Reason** answering.

The **TRUTH** of these answers are established with proof when we find the sick people with COVID-19 racing to hospitals and not to places of worship for treatment and cure. They are treated and healed by their doctors. Therefore, we can conclude, Yudishtira of Dwapara Yuga is ahead of even Kali Yuga !!

And the answer to the next question too is ahead of his time when he says that the friend of a dying man is **Charity.** After all, it is the charity he has given while alive that can be considered 'his friend' because his act of charity gives him the immense satisfaction in death.

Having said all this to caution the Senior Citizens, let me conclude with a quotation from Charles Dickens' novel *"A Tale of Two Cities"* (1859) which seems to describe our present situation of facing the challenge of the pandemic Coronavirus. The future historians may write about the year 2019-20 in the following manner:

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair.

"We had everything before us. We had nothing before us. We were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going the other way."

In essence, our present plight with COVID-19 is like it was at the time Charles Dickens wrote those immortal lines of literature. In fact, he sounded very much prophetic to me. A situation, authorities (governments) and we the people accept for good or for evil. What cannot be cured must be endured. After all, nature's ways are inscrutable and even mysterious. Like God's!

e-mail
kbg@starofmysore.com

Sabarimala and Tirumala to host devotees from next week

Tirupati / Thiruvananthapuram, June 6 (Agencies)- Two of India's biggest shrines, Lord Ayyappa Temple in Kerala and that of Lord Venkateswara in Andhra Pradesh, will re-open for devotees from next week in line with the Centre's guidelines, but will do so with a slew of restrictions. Older people and children will not be allowed in both the hill shrines, while there will be a cap on the number of devotees allowed darshan in the respective temples.

The Lord Balaji temple in Tirupati will open its doors to devotees on June 11, after a gap of more than 80 days, temple administering body Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam (TTD) said.

The Sabarimala shrine will function from June 9 onwards, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said in Thiruvananthapuram.

Both the temples had remained closed to stem the spread of Coronavirus but the Centre had recently announced 'Unlock 1.0,' its graded exit plan from the lockdown, and allowed temples and other religious places of worship to open from June 8 onwards as part of the measure.

Decomposed carcass of tigress found at Nagarahole

Hunsur, June 6 (KK,MTY & KS)- The carcass of a tigress was found in a highly decomposed state near Tuppadakola in Veeranahosahalli Wildlife Zone of Nagarahole Reserve Forest on Thursday. The Forest Department personnel, who were patrolling the area, found the decomposed carcass of the tigress aged between six and seven years in a field.

Hunsur Veterinary Department Assistant Director Dr. Lingaraj and Nagarajole Veterinarian Dr. Mujeeb, who conducted the post-mortem, did not find any grievous injuries and it looked like a natural death. As the canines of the tigress were found broken, the tigress may have starved to death as it was unable to hunt. Viscera of the tigress have been sent to a lab and the exact cause for its death would be known only after receiving the lab report.

Nagarahole Project Tiger Director Mahesh Kumar, Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF) Satish, Wildlife Warden Kruthika Alanahalli, Range Forest Officers (RFOs) T.M. Ravindra, Hanumantharaju and others visited the spot.

The carcass of the tigress was cremated at the spot.

Suttur Seer hands over grocery kits

Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji seen with the beneficiaries at a programme organised at Suttur Mutt at the foot of Chamundi Hill here this morning.

Mysuru, June 6 (PM&KS)- About 100 grocery kits were symbolically distributed to needy roadside vendors, artists and priests at Suttur Mutt here this morning. Cauvery Kannada Sangha of Association of Kannada Kootas of America (AKKA) and Moolchand Charitable Trust had donated 600 grocery kits of which 100 kits were distributed today.

Each kit contained 1 kg table salt, 1 kg dal, 1 litre cooking oil, 1 kg onion, 250 grams garlic, 100 grams tea powder, 1 kg jaggery, 100 grams turmeric powder, 250 grams sambar powder, 1 kg rava, 100 grams mustard seeds, 100 grams chana dal, 1 detergent soap, 50 grams pepper, 100 grams jeera, 250 grams Kabul channa and 3 kg rice.

Speaking on the occasion, Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji said that the district administration is taking all steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and expressed concern that the number of COVID cases were increasing after the lockdown was relaxed. The Seer said that the people should also take precautionary measures and follow lockdown rules.

Nearly 600 grocery kits would be distributed to the needy in the coming days, he said.

Re-opening of schools

To a question on re-opening of schools from July 1, the Seer said that the Government has not issued any order in this regard and added that it was now seeking opinions of parents, education experts and the public and would take a suitable decision.

Continuing, the Swamiji said that if at all the schools reopen on July 1, social distancing has to be maintained and all steps to prevent the spread of the virus must be taken. Schools should take care of the health of students and teachers, he added.

Places of worship

Speaking about the opening of religious places from June 8 (Monday), the Swamiji said that the Government has given permission to open places of worship by taking all precautionary measures. Suttur Mutt will also be opened from Monday but there would be no facilities for the devotees to stay at the Mutt. Prasadam would be packed and given to the devotees, he added.

Suttur Mutt Junior Seer Sri Jayarajendra Swamiji, JSS Mahavidyapeetha Secretary S.P. Manjunath, Medical Education Director Mahesh, internationally renowned violinist Dr. Mysore Manjunath, Moolchand Charitable Trust Trustees Vikas and Mukesh and others were present on the occasion.

KSRTC resumes night trips

More city buses to operate from Monday

Mysuru, June 6 (RK&DM)- After a gap of two and half months following the COVID -19 induced nationwide lockdown, KSRTC Mysuru Rural Division has resumed night trips starting from today (June 6).

KSRTC Mysuru Rural Divisional Controller R. Ashok Kumar told 'Star of Mysore' that night services have resumed to long distance destinations within the State from tonight.

"KSRTC will operate buses to destinations such as Mangaluru, Udupi, Manipal, Gokarna, Karwar, Hubballi, Gadag, Vijayapura, Raichur, Ballari and other destinations in North Karnataka. Depending upon public response and ridership in the next few days, the services will be continued. More trips will be introduced based on public response in the coming days and at the same time we may also consider suspension of night services to such destinations which record a very poor ridership," he said and added that all the trips will have regular stops at destinations enroute as before.

He further said that only ordinary and Rajhamsa buses will operate and there is no AC bus service right now.

Pointing out that the KSRTC will stick to the Standard Operating Procedures announced by the Government in respect of running bus services, Ashok Kumar said that passengers are required to compulsorily wear face masks, undergo thermal screening before boarding the bus and use hand sanitisers throughout the journey.

More city buses

Meanwhile, KSRTC Mysuru City Division said that it will operate more bus services in the city from Monday (June 8).

Speaking to *Star of Mysore* this morning, KSRTC Mysuru City Divisional Controller Nagaraj said that following the relaxation of lockdown regulations over 15 days ago, only 40 to 80 city buses resumed services in the initial days.

But as the passenger demand and ridership is growing by the day since then, it has been decided to operate 200 city buses, with an expectation that the ridership will considerably improve with the re-opening of Hotels and Restaurants, Temples, Malls etc.

Pointing out that lockdown measures such as maintenance of social distancing, wearing of face masks and use of hand sanitisers will be strictly followed in the operation of buses, Nagaraj noted that a maximum of 30 passengers will be allowed in a bus.

Mysuru Zoo, Bandipur & Nagarahole Safaris to open from June 8

KSTDC's sight-seeing in Mysuru, Nature Splendour (Bengaluru-Madikeri-Nagarahole-Bengaluru) from June 10

Bengaluru, June 6 (MTY & BCT)- With the Karnataka Government deciding to open the doors of the hospitality sector from June 8, tourist places, Zoos, Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserve safaris, Jungle Lodges and Resorts (JLR) properties will open up to guests.

Following the order, tourist spots in Mysuru including the Mysore Palace, Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens (Mysuru Zoo), Krishna Raja Sagar Dam, Ranganathittu and Kokkare Bellur Bird Sanctuaries and tourist places in Srirangapatna will be open from Monday.

Though there are Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to open the Zoo and places of worship, the Tourism Department in Mysuru has so far not received any formal guidelines to be followed. "We are just facilitators to the tourism industry and we do not carry out activities to invite tourists," Mysuru Tourism Department sources told 'Star of Mysore.'

Even the Karnataka State Tourism Development Corporation (KSTDC) Limited will commence tours in the State from June 10. The order to this effect was issued after the Central Government agreed to the proposal and issued a set of SOPs.

Only those in non-containment zones are permitted to open and all directions issued by the Centre and Health Department will have to be followed, Tourism Secretary T.K. Anil Kumar told reporters in Bengaluru.

Only those who are asymptomatic will be permitted to enter any premises, and a thorough screening will be done. The decision has also been taken as movement of private vehicles is now permitted. In case of JLR, the number of visitors for safari will be restricted and social distancing will have to be ensured at all tourism sites. Safaris organised by the Forest Department will also start from June 8, but no lodging will be allowed in forest guest houses.

To begin with, the KSTDC will operate four tours — Dakshina Kannada Temple Tour, sight-seeing in Bengaluru and Mysuru, Nature Splendour (Bengaluru-Madikeri-Nagarahole-Bengaluru) and temple tour of Hassan district — from next Wednesday. The tours will be operated on the philosophy of local tourism activities 'Nodu Baa Nammoora' (Come, See Our City), dining out within the city and 'Love Your Local' model.

According to a press release from Kumar Pushkar, Managing Director, KSTDC, several safety regulations will be adopted while ferrying tourists to these locations.

Among the measures to ensure tourist safety included, complete sanitisation of tourist vehicles, mandatory gloves, masks, sanitisers and thermal screening for guides, drivers and cleaners of the bus, 50 per cent occupancy in vehicles to ensure social distancing norms and others.

People suffering from illness or above 65 years of age will not be allowed to take the tour, the release stated adding that all buses will be non-AC. All tourists will also be screened for any illness before the start of the journey, it said.

Wholesale traders to close on Sundays

The members and reps of Wholesale Traders Associations during the meeting in city yesterday.

(Continued from page 1)

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, Association member and owner of Karnataka Bangle Store on B.N. Street, Gaurav Jain said that the wholesalers including toys, gifts, novelties and other decorative items have come to this unanimous decision. "We are over 400-strong members from various small Associations dealing with such items. COVID has taught us lessons and the Sunday closure is to prevent the pandemic and at the same time spend time with our families," he said.

Gaurav Jain said that wholesalers from Shivarampet, K.T. Street, B.N. Street have come to this understanding and gradually, the decision will spread across the city to close on Sundays. "Only wholesalers will be closed and not retailers as they have requested us to exempt them from this decision. Retailers have a good customer footfall on Sundays," he said.

President of Sri Sthanakvasi Jain Yuva Sanghatan Rajan Baghmar said that it is best for traders to close on Sundays and also close daily by 7 pm. "Apart from less crowded streets, these moves will help combat the disease and also to spend quality time with family," he added.

MCC collects Rs. 12 crore tax in a month

(Continued from page 1)

After the receipts and SAS forms are submitted to the respective MCC Zonal Offices, the officer, following the verification of the documents, collects the phone number of the tax-payer and tells the tax-payer that he/she will be called to pay the tax at a given date and time. After this, the specified tax amount is disclosed to the tax-payer so that payment can be made at the Zonal Office counters. Mysuru has over 1,85,000 properties except revenue properties and this year's revenue target is Rs. 160 crore. By the end of July and before the 5 percent rebate window ends, the MCC is expecting a property tax revenue collection of Rs. 60 crore. Also, a revenue of Rs. 20 crore is expected from revenue properties.

Ledger entry verification: Before even the process started, all properties were physically and electronically verified and its extent, built up area, floor area ratio, extent of open space, space abutting the roads, exact distance from the main road or cross roads have been entered in the ledgers at the respective Zonal Offices.

Once a tax-payer approaches the counter to pay taxes, his last year's SAS forms are taken and his phone number is collected. Here the actual process begins. The SAS form is tallied with the property details entered in the ledgers and the PID is allotted. A detailed verification is carried out so that there is no room for errors or data mismatch.

This is done because from next year, the property tax payment process will be made majorly online, say MCC Revenue Section Officers. After the verification and the PID is generated, the tax-payer is asked to pay either online or offline. The benefit of the PID is that when the number is entered in the system, all the property details including the tax due displays on the screen.

On inordinate delay: Regarding the complaints by residents that though they submit last year's tax paid receipt and the copies of SAS documents, the MCC officers never call them even after 15 to 20 days, MCC officers said that it will take time for detailed verification and sometimes, the Zonal Offices are hit by server issues.

"We try our best to call the tax-payer within two or three days after they submit their previous year's SAS forms. Sometimes there are unforeseen delays," officers said. They added that in each Zonal Office, 75 to 100 tax-payer ledgers are verified every day. "This is evident as every day, our Zonal Offices handle crowd between 75 and 166 tax-payers," Revenue Officers said.

DOCTOR REQUIRED
Well Furnished Clinic
Ready to Use
Contact
SRI VINAYAKA MEDICALS
MAIN ROAD, HANUR
98809-41699

THE windflower RESORTS SPA
Shubhmangal - Saavdhan
Wedding Packages
For 50 Guests
@ The Windflower Lawns with
Trained COVID -19 Warriors.
Safe distance seating arrangements. Mantapa & Decor.
Crowd density management.
Customized menu for 50 guests.
Welcome drinks for 50 guests.
Sound equipment*.
Thermal screening for all guests & staffs.
Hand sanitization stations.
Sanitized toilets.
Vehicle parking facility
For more details Reach Nandeesh.R
+91 9731869977

PRAY Safe STAY Safe
SINCE 1948
CYCLE
everyone has a reason to pray

Printed by T.S. Gopinath and published by M. Govinde Gowda on behalf of Academy Newspapers Private Limited at Academy Newspapers Private Limited, 15-C, Industrial 'A' Layout, Bannimantap, Mysuru-570 015. Editor: M. Govinde Gowda. Phone: 2496520/2496521/2496523/ 2496526/2496527/2496528 Fax: 0821-2496525, 2496530. City offices: Visveshwaraya Building, III Floor, K.R. CIRCLE, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2431774 and No. 114, D.Devaraj Urs Road, Mysuru-570 001, Ph: 2428695, E-mail address: voice@starofmysore.com, For Advertisements: ad@starofmysore.com, RNI Reg. No. 29894/78.